

## The Ontario Argus

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### MEXICO—THE MELON.

Consider this Mexico into which we apparently are about to be projected with a more serious military purpose than that of capturing bandits! It is a territorial area of more than 765,000 square miles, between seven and eight times the size of Oregon and about one-fifth the area of the United States. The Mexican coast line is 5483 miles in extent. There are twelve large rivers in the republic and ten lakes of considerable area, about and along which are rich alluvial valleys and a wealth of forestry said to be unexcelled anywhere in the world. Along its extent of coast line is a littoral of great and varied productiveness—of a temperate, a semi-tropical and a tropical climate. This littoral has an approximate average of thirty miles in width, rich lowlands for the most part intersected by estuaries and the rivers as they make to the sea, and broken here and there by projecting ridges of the Cordilleras.

Some of the Mexican valleys, considering area and potential productiveness, are among the most wonderful in the world. The Valley of Mexico, with its twin volcanic sentinels at the south standing as giant guardians to the capital, is 200 miles in extent, and is in itself a veritable empire capable of sustaining a entire country. Hardly anywhere on this continent are there to be found such stretches of rich mesa land as one encounters in traversing Mexico from coast to coast along, let us say, the twenty-sixth parallel or thereabout. And in the mountain ranges that would be crossed in such a journey are inexhaustible stores of mineral treasure—a storehouse from which already half the silver of the world has been taken and more money latent yet hidden in it than the world has now in use. The peninsula that lies immediately to the south of our state of California is studded with mountains of well-nigh solid ore and great quarries of the most beautiful building stone known to the use of man. The population of Mexico is 15,000,000. The country is easily capable of sustaining 120,000,000. In topography, in soil, mineral wealth, timber, climate—in every natural condition conducive to the creation of wealth and the maintenance of a large and prosperous population, Mexico is endowed in endless variety and inexhaustible abundance.

There—in the purely material view of the Mexican situation—is the tempting melon to be plucked and cut. There is the treasure—the glittering jewel—as desirable as any that has ever appealed to human cupidity. It was the prize that lured the Spaniard into that country, and in the later years of Mexican nationalism it has been the temptation for other conquests, conducted in other fashion than that of the Spaniard, but with like disastrous results. Are we to go into Mexico for that? If that were to be our mission it would not be worth the blood of one American boy. Such an errand would be to our shame and a denial of the ideals of American democracy.

### FOREIGN FARMERS FIRST.

During the ten months of the fiscal year 1913, under the republican protective tariff there was imported into this country meat and dairy products to the value of \$12,000,000. The bulk of this was foreign cheeses. Seven of the ten months ended April 1914, were under the democratic tariff-for-less-than-revenue law, with most of these products on the free list, and for this ten months period foreign competitors sent meat and dairy products into the American market to the value of \$28,000,000, the bulk of them being meats. Nine of the ten months ended April 1915, were under European war conditions. Notwithstanding this, our imports of these products reached the astonishing figure of \$38,000,000 an increase of 217 per cent over the 1913 period. Argentine meats and Canadian milk and cream accounted for the larger part of these imports. About this time the demands of the belligerents for Argentine meats became heavier, and her trade in these products veered toward Europe, as did much of that from Canada. For the ten months ended April 1916, our imports of Argentine meats were just 50 per cent of what they were during the 1914 period, and our total imports of meat and dairy products were

\$21,000,000. The principal after-war problem which Argentina will have to meet is how to get rid of her vast surplus of farm products, the production of which, during the past two years has been so wonderfully increased. With a democratic free trade law on the statute books, the United States is the logical market for these products and that spells disaster to the American farmer. With a republican tariff law on the statute books American farm products will be protected. Moreover, every cent of duty that Argentina pays to enter these farm products in our market will go into the federal treasury as revenue, and that means a lessening of the burden of internal taxation on the American farmer. How do you think he will vote?

Disregarding the interests of farmers, the democrats put eggs on the free list, with the result that millions of dozens of Chinese eggs were shipped to this country at prices the American farmer could not meet. The Oregon legislature tried to protect the Oregon farmer by enacting a law requiring that bakeries, restaurants, etc., using imported eggs shall post a notice declaring that fact. A test case in the courts has resulted in a decision declaring the law unconstitutional, and Chinese eggs are again freely sold in the West. According to the American vice-consul at Nanking, China, eggs from that country are consigned to America at 4.5 cents per dozen. While this competition does not affect the egg producer in the East, it illustrates the application of the principle of a protective tariff which kept these eggs of cheap price and poor quality out of our markets.

"The demand of the armies of Europe have furnished an opportunity for American packers and canners to market large quantities of their goods," said Dr. E. E. Pratt in an article read before the Boston Convention of Wholesalers. But Dr. Pratt refuses to recognize canned goods as munitions of war.

### WAS IT A CASE OF BETRAYAL?

Come to think of it, isn't this a queer state of affairs. The Seattle end of Washington has a republican senator. His name is Poindexter. From a democratic senate he gets everything he wants. His appropriation for Bremerton goes through as though everybody was tickled to death to do it for him. The democratic secretary of the navy is at his beck and call. All he needs to know is that it is for Poindexter to recommend it and urge that it be given. The senate committee, with a democratic chairman at its head, is equally complaisant. Our own senators are not far behindhand. The ways are greased and Poindexter's appropriation bill goes through like a graceful launching.

Oregon is represented by two democratic senators. Oregon helped Wilson toward his first nomination much as it helped Hughes toward his nomination. It gave Wilson its electoral vote. It sent to Washington a democratic senator that gave the senate its lone democratic majority. One of our senators is chairman of the military committee, the most strategic, except one, in the whole list. With all these seeming advantages in our favor, the administration, house and senate democratic and both our senators democrats, all we seem able to do is to help Poindexter. When we need something for ourselves in the same line we are treated like a lot of truant schoolboys, even by Poindexter, who seems to rule the senate naval committee as though they were a lot of his playfellows. The trouble seems to be that our senators are perfectly indifferent to the result. They do not seem to have any interest in a naval base at the mouth of the Columbia, perhaps are a little annoyed that we should have been presumptuous enough to ask for it. With every card in their hands they either do not want to play them or they do not know how to play them. The first supposition seems to be the true one for they seem perfectly able to help Poindexter to play his cards. A question is beginning to come forward for an answer. Why should they be so willing to play Poindexter's game and let their own game go by the board? Is there some secret deal or understanding between them and Poindexter? If there is, upon what is it based? Are the whole community and state betrayed to get by with some other appropriation of greater importance to private individuals?

Surely there must be some answer. The senators may be able to give it. If they will. If not perhaps Charles Samuel Jackson, of the Journal, who went forth so gaily with a commission from the people of Portland to get the naval base appropriation, but who appears to have snubbed his toe at some point in the road, might rise and do it for them. As matters stand they are all in an indefensible

position before the public whose confidence they seem to have betrayed.—Portland Telegram (Democratic.)

### THROWING A MONKEY WRENCH INTO Cogwheels of Industry.

Early in the year the people of California and their representatives in congress made a strong fight to secure relief for the oil producers operating in good faith on the withdrawn lands at Maricopa and Midway.

A remarkably strong case was made in favor of the oil industry and the senate committee on public lands conducted an elaborate hearing for two months. On this committee were senators Myers of Montana, Thomas of Colorado, Chamberlain of Oregon, Smoot of Utah, Clark of Wyoming and Pittman of Nevada. Working with them were Senators Phelan and Works of California and Secretary of the Interior Lane. These are all western men thoroughly familiar with the situation.

After two months of the closest investigation, the above committee brought in a report recommending relief for the oil industry. No one questioned the report and the California oil men were happy.

Now come a few eastern papers and politicians trying to gain votes at the expense of the west and claim this relief has been recommended as a large land grab measure, etc., and try to hold up the relief measure. This is entirely uncalled for and a direct insult to a large number of the brainiest men in congress who are in favor of such a relief.

The west has been made a fool of long enough at the hands of such political highwaymen and is now standing solidly behind her representatives who are fighting for this measure.

The oil producers, whether on withdrawn or private lands, have developed their wells along lines of honest endeavor and good faith, followed in this country since the constitution was adopted. To protect them in those rights should be the first duty of the legislators and thereby preserve one of the principal basic industries of the coast.

The same eastern politicians have been trying to hold up the water power development in the northwest. If they can succeed in blocking power development there and oil development in California, they would have certainly put the biggest wrench possible in the cogwheels of our industrial development.

One might almost say that it looks like a selfish scheme on the part of eastern interests to hold back manufacturing on the coast.

### FIGHT FOR TAX REDUCTION.

Persons with bills to go before the legislature or by initiative before the people, involving large expenditures, might as well save themselves trouble as they will not be authorized.

Political crazes and their effect on taxation are being thought over by the people as never before and not many more steps in that direction will be taken on this coast in the near future.

The high cost of living and the high cost of government are in large part due to the development of a trained army of experts, or political pests, called uplift boards, commissions or whatnot.

The average per capita tax in Oregon is nearly as high today as in war-ridden Germany and from \$20 per capita to \$60 per capita within a decade on progressive lines.

In twenty years Oregon taxation increased five hundred per cent, and the per capita in the three coast states is about the same—all higher than New York. The tax rate should come down 25 per cent.

Cheap capital, with high taxation, will not employ high priced labor, and establishment of new industries will go on very slowly until the average rate of taxation has been reduced considerably.

Cheap capital becomes dear capital when taxes amount to two and a half to three per cent. Low rates of interest are impossible for industrial development or manufacturing enterprises.

It is only the interest-eating mortgage that can live when the cost of government is too high, and the high cost of living can not be reduced with taxation applied in too many forms.

### PREPAREDNESS.

Nine days after the raid on Columbus the Ward line steamer Esperanza arrived in Vera Cruz with 1,350,000 rounds of ammunition, all soft nosed or dum dum bullets, for the Carranza government.

On April 1 the Ward line steamer Monterey landed at Vera Cruz 1,350,000 rounds of ammunition.

On May 13, a month after the Carrancista garrison at Parral had attempted to amuse the advance guard of the American expeditionary troops under Maj. Tompkins, and had at-

tacked them, the Esperanza landed at Vera Cruz 300,000 rounds of ammunition.

During these months ammunition has been going over the border in quantities, as well as other supplies for the Carranza troops.

Our soldiers are now about to meet a large enemy force, armed and equipped by their own countrymen, with the permission of the government that is now sending them into the field. The American soldiers who die in battle will be shot by American bullets, propelled by American powder, from guns held by soldiers fed by American food, supported by a government established through the influence of the American government.—Chicago Tribune.

### THE "COWPUNCHER" WAY.

We read in the news dispatches: "Cowpunchers of the Diamond A and U-bar outfits today sent a courier to Hachita with news that they had located a hot trail and were following it into Mexico."

The man who reads the papers understands that these cowboys were on a punitive expedition of their own, and that the purpose of it was to catch and punish the murderers of William Parker and wife. In their own sense of direct and expedited justice, these men know no border line. To their minds a murderer is just as guilty in Mexico as he is in the United States; and if he gets into Mexico, the thing to do is to go after him and bring him to justice.

If it could have been impressed on the Mexican mind from the very first that this cowboy philosophy of administering justice would govern border relations, we would undoubtedly have escaped much trouble and might have avoided war.

From confidential sources it is learned that the administration contemplates a blockade of every Mexican port on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts within the next few days.

This step will be taken to prevent arms, ammunition and other war supplies from reaching Mexican forces in the event that Carranza fails to yield completely to the United States and continues making threats and warlike demonstrations.

With the border closed tightly against all shipments of war material into Mexico and the ports blocked, the de facto government would be completely shut off from every source of supply, except through Guatemala, and it is not believed that the government of that country would furnish arms to Carranza.

After a year and a half of prohibition Russia may be said to have successfully abolished the liquor traffic. The sale of intoxicants since Emperor Nicholas put his signature to the ukase forbidding the traffic at the outset of the war, has fallen from nearly 1,000,000,000 rubles (\$500,000,000) yearly to approximately four per cent of that sum. This four per cent largely consists of the sale of liquors for medical purposes, although in it is included also a limited traffic in wines for which there is a restricted permission in certain parts of the empire.

Senator Ollie James evidently some times changes his mind. A few months ago he was lauding Woodrow Wilson as the greatest president since Washington. Then he changed it to the greatest since Lincoln. But he voted for a democratic platform which merely makes Wilson the greatest in his generation. When the campaign is over and the election has removed the necessity of extravagance of expression, probably Senator James will agree that Wilson is the greatest democratic president since Cleveland.

Boston Transcript—A democratic secretary of the treasury can squeeze more gleeful gloats out of a \$150,000,000 deficit than any of his republican predecessors were ever able to extract from a \$250,000,000 surplus.

West Plains (Mo.) Journal—Notice anything in the St. Louis platform about single term for the president, canal toll, high cost of living and affairs in Mexico? Neither did we.

### MORE THAN WOMEN HAVE APPENDICITIS.

Surgeons state men are slightly more subject to appendicitis than women. Ontario people should know that a few doses of simple buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed in Adler-i-ka, often relieve or prevent appendicitis. This mixture removes such surprising foul matter that one spoonful relieves almost any case of constipation, sour stomach or gas. The instant, easy action of Adler-i-ka is surprising. The Everhart Drug Co. adv.

## "My Druggist"

—"My Druggist" is what we want you to call us, and if you give us an opportunity we will live right up to your expectations in every respect.

—We will sell you drugs of absolute purity and freshness.

—Your prescriptions will be filled with faithful attention to the minutest detail.

—The toilet articles you buy will be the best money can obtain for the price, and the price will always be low.

—The rubber goods we sell are of the best make and will prove eminently satisfactory to you.

—We will give you our best in everything, including service.

## Everhart Drug Store

## Bargains Bargains

Never before were there such bargains in hats as you will find at the Osborn Millinery, also a special discount on switches.

## Osborn Millinery

Successor to Grove & Riley

### SWAT THE ROOSTER.

In the state of Missouri a certain day in June has been designated as "swat the rooster" day, at which time every poultryman is supposed to break up breeding pens and either kill the male birds or place them where they cannot have access to the females.

The prime purpose of adopting this plan is to produce infertile eggs; but in addition to this, it may have its value in other respects. During the hot summer months many eggs are spoiled by reason of being infertile, that is to say, fertile eggs that come in contact with high temperature start germ development, and it requires but a short time to make them unfit for human consumption.

We believe, therefore, that this is an excellent plan, and in our opinion, every person handling poultry should consider and put into practice this suggestion and help improve a product that enjoys such a universal demand.

Stale eggs are not relished by any one, much less an egg that has started to incubate.

Farmers are more likely to become careless in this matter than in others, perhaps by reason of having their attention directed along other lines, or not having facilities for keeping the fowls separated. In such cases, too, irreparable harm can generally be traced, as the same carelessness is exercised in the gathering of eggs, and the market becomes stocked with an article unfit to be looked upon as human food.

This course leads to a decrease in the number of eggs that would normally be consumed. Consequently, an unusual surplus follows; and the cold storage becomes the beneficiary.

We are not pretending to deliver a sermon, or relate something that is entirely new, but our purpose is to help benefit all mankind and aid our community in becoming more prosperous and happy. Every individual should feel it incumbent upon himself to promote better living, not only for his own family, but for others as well. Keep everything clean and sanitary, and fowls free from disease, as poultry products form an important menu in the home of every family in this broad universe.

If the rooster is not permitted to associate with a flock of laying hens

during the summer months, there will be no such thing as eggs with chicks in them; and unless we all join in making this a common law unto ourselves, do not be surprised if the iron hand of the law steps in and commands under penalty that you shall conduct your business in compliance with its dictates.

### FRUITLAND.

Fruitland, July 5.—Fruitland voted bonds for a high school building Saturday. The first of June, at a mass meeting held, a committee of six was appointed to canvass the district and learn, if possible, the wish of the voters as to the amount they would be willing to vote bonds for a high school building. After a thorough canvass \$10,000 seemed to be the amount thought sufficient by the majority of voters. The board then called for an election for July 1 for \$10,000 bonds to build and furnish a high school building. The voting was not as heavy as usual, only 171 voting, and only 10 of these voting against the bonds.

After the election the school board met and opened bids for the construction of the building. Mr. McGee of Fruitland and Mr. Huff of Payette were the lowest bidders.

Monday night the board met and gave the building contract to Mr. McGee of Fruitland.

N. P. Yockey drew the plans for the building and will superintend the same. The building will be an addition 50x70 feet to the north end of the present building. The basement will have room for the furnace, manual training and domestic science classes. The first floor will have four class rooms. The second floor will be 48x88, the assembly hall.

Work will be begun at once so that the building will be in readiness for the opening of school in September.

Bonds of different amounts have been voted on four times in this district. All were satisfied that more room was needed, but a majority seemed to think the amount asked for too large.

### WEEK END EXCURSIONS.

Attractive rates for excursion tickets good from Saturday (or Sunday) to Monday—on sale every week. Still better rates for tickets good Sunday only. Ask O. S. L. agents for details.